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BOSTON DAILY ADVOCATE.

BOSTON,] EXTRA. [OCTOBER 5, 1832.

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REPLY
TO THE DECLARATION OF THE 1200 MASONS.

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[TO THE PUBLIC.—The 21st December, 1831, a declaration, purporting to deny all the allegations made against Freemasonry, for the past five years, was published in the Boston and other newspapers, and circulated throughout the country. It bore the signatures of about 1200 Freemasons, of "Boston and vicinity," and placed the vindication of the Institution upon their personal veracity, and individual credit, as *men*. Such a document, however false and deceptive in itself, demanded a deliberate consideration, in order to render a denial of it as solemn as the manner in which it was asserted. For this purpose, at a meeting of the Antimasonic members of the Legislature in March, 1832, a Committee was appointed to draft a reply to the Declaration of the 1200 Masons. The subject was deliberately considered by that Committee, and a report in the form of an Address, was made to the State Antimasonic Convention, held at Worcester, September 5th and 6th, 1832. That Address specified the allegations against Freemasonry, and the proofs on which they rested, and fully set forth the grounds upon which the Declaration signed by the 1200 Masons, was pronounced to be false and deceptive in its denials and in its assertions. The Convention (composed of 359 members) adopted the Address, and appointed the State Committee as their representatives, to assert and make good these allegations against Freemasonry, by tendering an issue of fact to the whole Masonic Fraternity. This they have done, as will be seen by the annexed letter and specification of allegations. The Grand Chapter has held two meetings, since the communication was made to them, and no notice has been taken of it, to our knowledge.

All the Boston daily papers, seven in number, published the Masonic Declaration, in December, 1831. The Committee have addressed a note to each of the editors of those papers (excepting the Advocate,) requesting them to do a common act of justice by publishing this Reply. They have all refused to do so, with the exception of the Commercial Gazette. This fact should be sufficient to convince the public that the newspapers in Boston are directly under Masonic influence, ready to publish false denials and assertions in favor of Masonry, but refusing to publish *truth* on the other side, in reply to such assertions and denials. Under these circumstances, as the opponents of Freemasonry cannot through the ordinary circulation of the Daily Advocate, diffuse the reply as widely as the Declaration was extended, by the newspaper press, they have published an extra or supplement to the Daily Advocate, in this form, in order to place this question fairly before their fellow citizens whose candid attention they respectfully invite to the following documents.]

Boston, Sept. 11, 1832.

To Rev. Samuel Clark, or the presiding officer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Massachusetts.

Sir,—At the Antimasonic Convention held at Worcester the 5th and 6th instant, consisting of more than three hundred Delegates, a Reply to the Declaration signed by about 1200 Freemasons of Boston and its vicinity, was presented by a committee, and adopted by that body, setting forth specifically the most material allegations made by Antimasons against Freemasonry and Freemasons for the past five years. That Declaration, signed by yourself and several members of the Grand Chapter, purported unequivocally to deny *all* the allegations made against Freemasonry during that period, without specifying what the allegations were.

The professed object of the Masonic Declaration was, "to

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establish truth and expose imposition," an object which all Antimasons are earnestly desirous to carry into effect. In order, therefore, to present a fair issue to our fellow citizens who belong to the Masonic Fraternity, and who still insist that the opposition to their society is wholly groundless, the Convention before referred to, caused a minute specification to be made of the most material allegations, affecting the character of the Institution, with a view to ascertain, if possible, whether these were the allegations which the Masonic Declaration embraced in its unequivocal and universal denial.

Holding themselves subject to the verdict of public opinion, and presuming that no body of men in this country can fairly claim to be above it, the Antimasonic Convention have proposed an issue, to test, so far as facts are concerned, the question between Antimasons and Masons, which now divides the community, by offering on their part to appoint a committee who should assert the allegations contained in the said reply to be true. They also proposed that either the twelve hundred, or any of the grand bodies or officers of the Masonic Fraternity in this State, should appoint a committee on their part, who would publicly, in some newspaper, charge the Antimasonic committee personally, with falsehood, in uttering these allegations. That committee should then commence an action of libel against the Masonic committee, and thus both parties having compulsory process to procure testimony, the trial, if fairly conducted, could not fail "*to establish truth and expose imposition.*"

It would seem to be no more than a just deference to public opinion, that where, in matters of fact, twelve hundred respectable citizens unequivocally deny, what more than three hundred equally respectable citizens as positively assert, some certain mode should be adopted, through the judicial or legislative tribunals, to find out where the truth lies; in order that *truth* may be established and *imposition* be exposed. With this view we take this method of apprizing you and the body over which you preside, (which we learn is to assemble this evening,) that the State Antimasonic Convention, at their recent session, voted, that the undersigned, as the representatives of that Convention, do assert, and pledge themselves to sustain, the truth of the allegations against Freemasonry above referred to. This the undersigned have the honor to inform you that they are prepared to do, and they respectfully solicit the appointment of a committee on your part, for that purpose. Should you comply with this request, we shall be happy to furnish the committee with specifications of the aforesaid allegations, which if untrue, they may specifically deny, in the form proposed, so as to make up a legal issue on the facts, before a jury or other

suitable civil tribunal. Whenever we may be advised of the appointment of such a committee, we shall be gratified to communicate with them in any suitable manner that may be most agreeable.

We unaffectedly assure you, Sir, and the body over which you preside, that we make this proposal, not with any hostile feeling toward any of the individuals who compose the Masonic Fraternity in this State, but with an earnest desire to place the principles and practices, secret or open, of the Masonic Institution, before the public, in the most authentic form, to enable them to decide understandingly upon the merits of the question between us. Respectfully, your obedient servants,

(Signed,) JACOB HALL, GEO. ODIORNE, B. F. HALLETT, DANIEL WELD, DAVID TILDEN, *For the State Committee.*

I certify, that on the 11th of September, 1832, I delivered at the house of Mr. Samuel Howe, Secretary of the Grand Chapter, a letter, of which the foregoing is a copy; that I was informed he was at home at the time, and presume the letter was put into his hands. ISAAC PORTER.

I certify, that on the 12th of September, I delivered into the hands of Col. Joseph Jenkins, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, a letter, of which the foregoing is a copy, substituting his name and that of the Grand Lodge, for the High Priest and the Grand Chapter. EBEN'R. CLOUGH.

[The State Committee here present to the public, for their candid consideration, a brief summary of the allegations contained in the reply adopted by the Convention, to the Declaration of the twelve hundred Masons, leaving their fellow citizens to determine, whether, if these charges be *true* as we stand ready to substantiate them, in the form proposed to the Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge, they are not abundantly sufficient to condemn Freemasonry, and to require the active exertions of all good and patriotic men to rid our land of such an evil.]

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FREEMASONRY.

THE Declaration, signed by about twelve hundred Freemasons, "of Boston and vicinity," denies, unequivocally, *all* the allegations against Freemasonry, and Freemasons, that have been made, during the last five years. Some of the most material of these allegations, which the State Committee are prepared to prove, are the following. We allege

1. That the kidnapping and consequent murder of William Morgan, was preconcerted in Lodges and Chapters, and carried

on with their knowledge and co-operation, and that none but Freemasons, were concerned in that outrage.

2. That the only motive for this crime, was the disclosure of Masonic secrets, by Morgan.

3. That the penalty imposed for a violation of Masonic oaths is *death* and *death* only.

4. That the Masonic construction of Masonic penalties, is *death* for a violation of Masonic law; and that no ceremony, lecture, or injunction in Masonry, previous to 1827, explains away this plain literal construction, but that the whole tenor of all such authorities enforce it, in the strongest terms.

5. That the manner of the infliction of death, imposed by these penalties, in eight of the degrees, beginning with the first, is—cutting the throat and tearing out the tongue—tearing out the heart—severing, quartering and disembowelling the body, and burning to ashes—tearing the breast open, and throwing the heart on a dunghill to rot—smiting the skull off, and exposing the brains to the sun—pulling down the house of the offender, and hanging him on one of its timbers—striking the head off, and placing it on a lofty spire—tearing out the eyes, chopping off the hands, quartering the body, and throwing it among the rubbish of the Temple.

6. That Freemasonry, by the legitimate operation of her principles, and the literal construction of her oaths, has prevented the detection, indicting and conviction of kidnappers and murderers.

7. That Masonic jurors have refused to indict or to convict Masonic offenders, and that Masonic witnesses have refused to testify against them.

8. That in the contest of five years, between the legal tribunals of New York and Freemasonry, but two verdicts and three pleas of guilty have been obtained against the kidnappers and murderers, though well known; and the whole amount of punishment that has been inflicted for these outrages, committed by a large body of men, has been five years and five months imprisonment in county jails, distributed among five convicts!

9. That no "partial and inflammatory representation" of these offences, committed by Masons, has been made, beyond what the facts, as judicially established, fully warrant.

10. That these offences grew out of the legitimate construction and application of the oaths, principles, and engagements, of Freemasons.

11. That the five Masons sentenced for participation in the crime, eighteen indicted, and many others implicated, have ever remained in full fellowship with Lodges and Chapters, and that some of them have been since advanced to high Masonic honors.

12. That these convicts and kidnappers are held in full communion by Masons in Massachusetts, because the principles of Masonry, require all Lodges and Chapters to receive and fellowship Masons, so long as they retain membership in any Lodge or Chapter.

13. That the perpetrators of the violence on Morgan, were not "*a few misguided men*," but were men comprising the most active occupations and professions, as respectable in the communities where they lived, as the twelve hundred signers of the Declaration are in this community.

14. That at least three hundred and fifty Masons were accessary to the outrage, or principals in the crime, and that it became known, Masonically, to at least five hundred more Masons, in New York, soon after it was committed, and as there is no doubt, to acting Masonic bodies generally, throughout the United States.

15. That Lodges and Chapters concealed the criminals, contributed money to protect them from justice, and to enable one of the actual murderers to escape from the country.

16. That forty-three of the most active criminals, whom we can name, were men of high respectability and standing, comprising officers of justice, and belonging to almost every occupation and trade, and to three of the learned professions, and that the murderers themselves were men of no mean consideration.

17. That Masonic principles, oaths and engagements, are, in every essential particular, the same in Massachusetts as in New York.

18. That a knowledge of the crimes of Masons in New York, by Massachusetts Masons, soon after those offences were committed, is fairly inferred from the introduction of a check test or oath here, from New York, established to exclude from the Lodges those who studied the disclosures made by Morgan.

19. That the Masons of Massachusetts, when called upon formally, in 1830, by the State Antimasonic Convention, to disfellowship the Masonic bodies in New York, which cherished the Morgan conspirators, declined to do so, or to deny, as a Masonic body, the truth of the disclosures against Freemasonry, or to renounce the system, or to disapprove the murder.

20. That Masonic newspapers, Masonic officers, and Masons of great respectability, embracing even Ministers of the gospel, in this State and in Rhode Island, have justified the murder of Morgan, and declared he had met his just deserts, for a violation of his Masonic oaths!

21. That in repeated instances Masonic oaths have proved to be stronger, and more binding on Masonic consciences, than civil oaths, in trials and examinations before judicial and legislative tribunals.

impartiality, in the capacity of jurors, judges, officers or legislators, as can be exercised by men who acknowledge no other than civil, moral, and religious obligations.

34. That if Masonry does disdain the making of proselytes, *Masons*, nevertheless, have repeatedly urged men to join the Lodge.

35. That so far from admitting only those whose characters "are unspotted by immorality and vice," one of the inducements held out in her books of highest authority, to become a Mason, is, that it will introduce you to the fellowship of corsairs, pirates, and marauders, who will treat you as a brother.

36. That she not only admits men of the vilest character, into her Lodges, but retains in full fellowship, the profligate, the abandoned, the worthless, the intemperate, the profane, and does not expel men guilty of kidnapping, murder, and treason!

37. That so far from being the handmaid of religion and virtue, she is the offspring of skepticism and vice—excluding revelation and the name of the Saviour, from her seven first degrees; admitting the Bible of the pagan and Mohammedan to a concurrent authority with the Bible of the Christian, as "Holy writings," and practising secret rites and ceremonies, tending to bring the resurrection and the miracles of revelation into contempt.

38. That the pretended "charitable uses" of her "accumulated funds" received "in sacred trust," is deceptive; because no person likely to require charity, is, by her constitutions, permitted to be initiated: because her system of charity is merely a scheme of mutual assurance, rarely, if ever, paying out in charity what is received in fees, and appropriating to parades and processions, idle ornaments and *gorgeous temples*, the very funds, pretended to have been received in sacred trust for charitable uses.

These are the allegations which make up the most material counts in the indictment of the people against Freemasonry and Freemasons, and on these the State Antimasonic Convention, through their Committee, tender a distinct issue to the Twelve hundred, or the Grand Fraternities in this State, in any form best adapted "*to establish truth and expose imposition.*"

(Signed,)

ABNER PHELPS,	NATHAN ADAMS,
JOHN D. WILLIAMS,	BENJ. V. FRENCH,
GEO. ODIORNE,	D. TILDEN,
JON'A. FRENCH,	BENJ'N. F. HALLETT,
JACOB HALL,	HENRY GASSETT,
BENJ. W. LAMB,	DANIEL WELD.

Boston, Sept. 24th, 1832.